

Hydrofluoric Acid

At one time, Hydrofluoric Acid (HFA) was widely used to etch glass but has been mostly replaced by the much safer alternative of sandblasting. When you consider the severe hazards of working with HFA, and the wide variety and high caliber of equipment available for sandblasting, one wonders why anybody would still choose to use HFA.

If you get HFA on your hands, it can enter your body through the cuticles of your fingernails and travel straight to your bones – which it will expediently dissolve. Anywhere it touches your skin HFA will anaesthetize and burn. Unless you can see it happening, you won't even know it's burning through your skin and burrowing in to reach and dissolve your bones.

People who voluntarily use this stuff should be nominated for the Darwin awards.